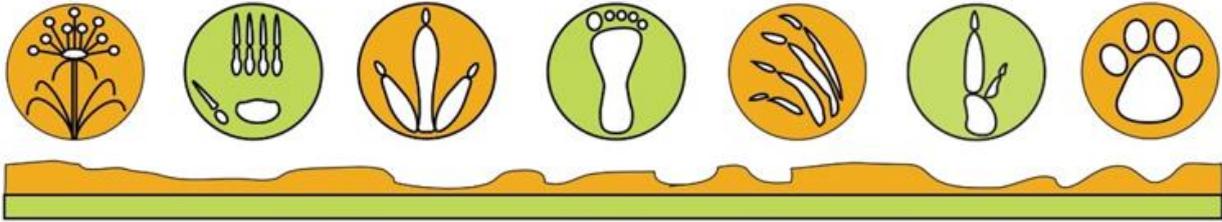


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES

PURKISS RESERVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting of the Purkiss Reserve Committee of the Barkly Regional Council was held in Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek on Tuesday 28 May 2024 at 4:30 pm.

Jeff MacLeod

Acting Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

We strive to be a responsive, progressive, sustainable council which respects, listens to and empowers the people to be strong.

The Way We Will Work

We will make it happen!

We will be engaged and have regular opportunities to listen.

We will have strong policies and budgets to ensure our programs and services are progressive and sustainable.

Respect is shown in everything we do, and we have acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly Region and their practices through a culturally competent Council.

We are a responsible Council.

We will be a responsive Council.

We want to empower local decision making.

We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

We want to be able to sustain our environment – our communities, our physical places, our people, and our organisational culture.

We will aggressively pursue additional funding from both levels of government to improve the standard of living of people across the region.

We need to be realistic, transparent, and accountable.

The meeting commenced at 4:35 PM with Peter Holt as chair.

1 OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 Committee Members Present

Wayne Green - Member
Jason Dunemann - Member
Ray Wallis- Member
Peter Holt - Official Manager

1.2 Staff Members And Visitors Present

Jeff MacLeod - CEO
Murray Davies - Director of Corporate Services
Ryan Francis - Director of Tennant Creek
Barry Natrass - Work Health and Safety Manager
Emmanuel Okumu - Governance Manager

1.3 Apologies

Stewart Willey

1.4 Absent Without Apology

Telvan Clegg
Matthew Beattie

1.5 Disclosure of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this Purkiss Reserve Committee Meeting.

2 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Actions from previous Minutes

2.1 Action from previous meeting.

2.1 Action from previous meeting.

MOTION

That Committee

1. Receive and note the committee terms of reference.
2. Receive and note the updated Purkiss Reserve Development Plan
3. Discusses and seeks feedback on any other actions from previous meeting.

Minute Note

Terms of reference

Members noted the committee's terms of reference. They pointed out that the committee was not established solely for the Purkiss Reserve Project but to advise the council on various areas relating to sports and community recreational facilities.

The Official Manager pointed out that if the understanding is that the Council initially established the committee for a broader purpose rather than for the period of the Purkiss development, then the focus of the committee needs to be to advise the Council on key priorities that Council can focus on for the benefit of the community.

For instance, at the previous minute, you suggested that the Council look for funding. Still, I need your advice stating that providing some form of business case or plan is a vital aspect required by funding bodies. For example, for the Council to look for funding, the funders will want to know how many sports activities are active in the community, what sort of facilities they require and how much would be required.

It's more than saying the Council should contact funding bodies when the committee does not clearly advise on priority focus and case study.

Members, demonstrating their commitment, reiterated that they have the priority ready and Mr Green would share a copy outlining the priority to members after the meeting.

The official Manager further reiterated that the Committee members being among the direct users of these facilities, they have valuable insights into what works best in addition to being able to listen to the community needs regarding sports and parks and then provide advice to the Council based on these discussions.

The PR REVISED PLAN

Officers provided committee members with copies and updates about the revised Purkiss Reserve development plan.

The members raised concerns that the Purkiss Reserve project plan has changed extremely, without DIPL engaging them as the committee. As such they had no way to advise the council regarding the negatives or benefits of the changes.

Members argued that the project is a council project, and DIPL is only doing it on behalf of the Council. Therefore, they should have been given a chance to provide input before the changes are made so that they can advise the Council to ensure effective decision making with DIPL.

Members raised a concern, saying DIPL has been focusing more on working with staff members and making decisions on behalf of the Council rather than seeking council's input on what council wants before the changes can be implemented.

The CEO clarified that from what he so far knows, DIPL was given full control of the project by the department funder. Until the Council takes over the finished facility, my understanding is that council can not dictate how DIPL should carry out their work. This is the current understanding, and if there are any discrepancies, further clarification will be sought.

As of now, DIPL has informed council of what they are going to do, when they are going to finish, and how much is remaining. And that is what we are informing you. If members require further information than what we can provide, as I have said, I will find further information after this meeting to understand issues around this project well agreement.

As the Official Manager, informed the committee it becomes less productive for him to be expected to attend every community consultation meetings yet council has appointed the committee of experts in those areas and they know and understand what the community needs. They should be able to attend and advise Official Manager or council.

Official Manager further informed the members that he had previously had a discussion with the DIPL Regional Director on the same.

He said further clarification would be needed on the difference between the DIPL committee and the Council committee and how they interact.

FEEDBACK FROM ACTIONS OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Issue of funding:

The CEO retaliated that, as already mentioned by the Official manager, the Council could not seek funding without receiving a business study.

We greatly value your expertise and need your guidance as the committee to advise the Council on a list of priorities. Your input will be crucial in shaping our future focus.

Our officers will start the process if we receive that priority list and a business case.

Issue of the basketball court and lighting.

Officers informed the members that the issues they raised were already being handled. Members raised a light issue. Officers met with one member, Mr Green, who explained the issue to the officers. The Council contacted a specialist, the electrician and instructed them to do the work.

Members further argued that officers should have consulted them on the type of lighting they would prefer and that the work could have been faster to fix the lighting issue raised.

The CEO advised that the members need to understand that their role is to advise, and officers have to engage specialists for actual technical advice, quotations, and when work can begin.

Considering the location of where the Council operates, it's common knowledge that sometimes getting this specialist to do the work takes a bit of a wait, but it does not mean the Council is doing nothing about it.

Again, on the type of lighting, the Council will always try to accommodate some requests, but it will always consider the specialists' advice, which means the specialists' advice may differ from what you advised.

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3 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Confirmation Of Committee Meeting Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

3.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

MOTION

That the committee receives and confirms the minutes from the committee meeting of council held on 7 November 2023 as true and accurate record of that meeting.

RESOLVED

To approve the minute pending making the following changes;

Change DIPL community consultation committee to the Project Working Group.

The area said Sally called the meeting to be updated to the council. They called for the committee meeting and invited the DIPL project team to explain the plan changes. The team didn't come. However, the Dipl Regional Director was in attendance and advised that her team would not join the meeting.

The issue of fencing should be changed to note that the committee's concern was that fencing had always been part of the original plan and that effort was needed to secure funding for it. Fencing is vital for crowd and access control during events. The committee's concern is that DIPL has done away with fencing without any consultation with the council or council committee.

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4 REGISTER OF MOTIONS

Nil

5 UPDATED COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAM REPORTS

Nil

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business

6.1 Update by the BRC CEO

6.1 Update by the BRC CEO

MOTION

That Committee receives and notes a verbal response from the CEO regarding the BRC Annual Plan.

Minute note.

The Official Manager informed the committee that the priority list and business case needed to be provided urgently so that it can be included in the plan.

The CEO asked if sporting associations exist for the various sports in Tennant Creek or Barkly. He then advised that, from experience, each sporting group always has its association, and that association enters into some form of MOU with the Council. If the committee thinks this could be something they wish to look into and advise the Council on the best approach, you can look into it. In response, the members said such an association once existed a few years back.

Members raised concerns that DIPL has spent 9 million, and there is nothing to show on the ground; hips of soil have not yet even been levelled, and sprinkler issues and rubbish bins everywhere, yet the council, being DIPL's client, is not making DIPL account for how they have used the money. CEO said, for now I can only go by what I have been advised and that is that the funder gave the contract to DIPL as a whole. If something is not going right, the department can always sort it out with DIPL, but again I will seek more information.

The CEO informed further stated that dwelling on how DIPL handled the 9 million and how the work is slow is okay, but may be not very productive to our plan discussion and setting future wish list aimed for regional plan.

The plan now is to ensure that DIPL finishes the project so that the facility is handed to the council for community benefit. This will allow the council to seek funding to run the facility. For instance, the council will require the facility to be maintained, which includes watering and mowing. This will necessitate upskilling our staff, managing water costs, and having standby mowing equipment stored in the facility. The council can only apply for it once the facility is finished and under the council's control.

Officers asked members to provide the wish list of what they will require once the facility is complete as some may need to be included in the plan. The CEO said that when making the priority list, we must also be mindful that the council must plan for TC and six other communities. We, therefore, need to not only focus on the budget here in TC but also look at what is needed in those communities. This calls for managing the budget.

Members raised the issue of the council charging \$120 a day for the sports facility and lighting. Members argued that the council previously agreed that users would not be charged until the development's work was completed.

The CEO said he would investigate further about the issue. However, he stressed that the council had not been charging users for power and water bills, even though it had been paying them. However, users must also understand that the council can not keep paying bills while users use the facility free of charge; otherwise, the council will run out of money for other services.

I will check this further to understand if overcharging is occurring, but apart from the overcharging aspect if there is one, it's not fair to expect the council to pay bills for clubs with funding to use the facility for free.

Members raised the issue of double booking for the same facility at the same time, which caused confusion among the team. The CEO requested officers respond. The director, Tennant Creek, took it on notice to check with the booking staff and resolve the issue if it occurs.

Jason, acknowledging the members' concerns, emphasized that they have no issue with paying for facility usage. However, he highlighted the need for a fair pricing structure, particularly for users who only require short-term usage. He stressed that it should not be a one-size-fits-all approach, thereby valuing the diverse needs of the users.

Members agreed to call for the next meeting end of July.

RESOLVED

Moved: {mover}

Seconded: {seconded}

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7 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 6:40 pm.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEDING PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE PURKISS RESERVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2024 AND ARE UNCONFIRMED.